

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scalable edge node that receives content from a NOC via a satellite link and distributes it via a last mile service provider, the edge node comprising:
 - a variable number of media servers connected to a load balancer, the load balancer capable of determining which of the servers connected to it is best able to meet a user's request for content, the number of media servers capable of being changed, while content is being received, to meet changes in demand for data;
 - a shared storage device connected to the media servers; and
 - a private VLAN that receives content from the NOC over the satellite link and distributes it to the shared storage device.
2. The edge node of claim 1, wherein the media servers, the load balancer, the shared storage device and the private VLAN are enclosed in a single equipment rack.
3. A method for using an edge node to distribute content, received from a NOC through a satellite link, to users via a last mile service provider, comprising:
 - receiving requests for the content from the users;
 - altering the number of servers installed in the edge node based on the number of users from whom requests for content are received;
 - 20 using the load balancer to ascertain the number of servers presently installed in the edge mode;

using the load balancer to determine which of the servers are best able to meet the requests; and

using the determined servers to meet the requests.

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